

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xix
<i>Table of cases</i>	xxi
<i>Table of treaties</i>	xlvi
<i>Table of other documents</i>	lix
<i>Abbreviations</i>	lxiii

Part I

International legal systems and the development of human rights law

1 Introduction	3
1. Human rights of the individual in international law	3
2. Structure of the book	5
3. Themes in international human rights law	8
(i) Universalism and regionalism	8
(ii) Interdependence of human rights	9
(iii) The scope of human rights law – individual and group rights	10
(iv) The public/private divide in human rights law	12
(v) The <i>sui generis</i> character of international human rights law	14
2 International law and human rights	16
1. Introduction	16
2. Nature and definition of international law	17
3. Fundamental characteristics of international law	17
4. Sources of international law	18
(i) International conventions	19
(ii) International customary law	22
(iii) General principles of law	23
(iv) Subsidiary sources of international law	24
(v) Additional sources of international law	25
5. <i>Jus cogens</i> and human rights law	25
6. Conclusions	26
3 The United Nations system and the modern human rights regime (1945–)	28
1. Introduction	28
2. Limitations of the Charter	30
3. Principal organs of the United Nations	31
(i) The General Assembly	31

(ii) The Security Council	34
(iii) The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	39
(a) The Commission on the Status of Women	41
(iv) International Court of Justice	42
(v) The Trusteeship Council	44
(vi) The Secretariat	45
4. The Human Rights Council	46
(i) Historical background – the Human Rights Commission and the Sub-Commission	46
(ii) Structure and functions of the Human Rights Council	49
(a) Mandate and responsibilities	49
(b) Status within the UN Framework	50
(iii) Universal Periodic Review (UPR) – specific details	51
(iv) Complaint procedure	53
(a) The Human Rights Commission and Resolutions 1235 and 1503	53
(b) The Human Rights Council Complaints Procedure	55
(v) Special procedures	58
(a) Under the Human Rights Commission	58
(b) Under the Human Rights Council	60
(vi) Human Rights Council's Advisory Committee	66
(vii) The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	68
5. Conclusions	70

Part II

The International Bill of Rights 73

4 The Universal Declaration of Human Rights 75

1. Introduction	75
2. Range of rights contained and the rationale for international consensus	77
3. Nature of obligations and relevance for human rights practitioner	79
(i) UDHR as an authoritative interpretation of the Charter	79
(ii) UDHR as part of customary international law	80
(iii) UDHR binding States with its <i>jus cogens</i> character	82
4. Conclusions	82

5 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 84

1. Introduction	84
2. The International Covenants and the right to self-determination	86
3. General nature of obligations	88
(i) Derogations in times of public emergency	90
4. Analysis of substantive rights	92
(i) The right to life, prohibition of torture and the issues concerning capital punishment	92
(ii) Rights to liberty and security of person, prohibitions of arbitrary detentions and unfair trials	101

(iii) Rights to privacy, freedom of expression, conscience, opinion, assembly and association	106
(iv) The interaction between principles of equality and non-discrimination with minority rights	110
5. The Human Rights Committee (HRC)	113
6. The reporting procedure	115
(i) Reporting guidelines	116
7. General comments	118
8. Inter-State applications	119
9. The Individual Complaints Procedure	121
(i) Admissibility requirements under the Optional Protocol	125
(a) Who may submit a petition?	125
(b) Are <i>actio popularis</i> communications permissible?	127
(c) Communications <i>ratione materiae</i>	129
(d) Against whom?	130
(e) Communications <i>ratione temporis</i>	130
(f) Communications between petitioner and the State complained against	131
(ii) Admissibility and procedural requirements connected with the content of the petition	133
(a) Effect on admissibility of the existence of international procedures (Article 5(2)(a))	133
(b) Effect on admissibility by non-exhaustion of domestic remedies (Article 5(2)(b))	134
(iii) Other admissibility requirements	136
10. Conclusions	137
6 The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	140
1. Introduction	140
2. Arguments over the superiority of rights	141
3. General nature of obligations: progressive realisation of rights	143
(i) Gender equality	145
4. Self-determination and economic, social and cultural rights	147
5. Analysis of the structure and substantive rights	149
(i) The right to work and rights of workers	150
(ii) Social security and family rights	153
(iii) Adequate standard of living and mental and physical health	155
(iv) Right to education	159
(a) International human rights law and the right to education	161
(v) Cultural rights	165
6. Implementation machinery	166
(i) Aims and objectives of State reporting system	168
(ii) Procedure	170
7. Innovative procedures	173
(i) Optional Protocol to the ICESCR	177
8. Conclusions	178

Part III	
Regional protectionism of human rights	181
7 Europe and human rights (I)	183
1. Introduction	183
2. The Council of Europe and protection of civil and political rights	184
(i) Rights contained in the Convention	186
3. Analysis of substantive rights	187
(i) The right to life and the prohibition of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	187
(a) Prohibition of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	191
(b) Inhuman treatment, degrading treatment or punishment	193
(ii) The right to liberty and security	200
(iii) The right to fair trial	203
(iv) Privacy, family life, home and correspondence	204
(a) Freedom of religion	208
(b) Freedom of expression, assembly and association	212
(c) Non-discrimination issues under the Convention	214
4. Institutional mechanisms and implementation machinery	215
5. Complaints procedure under Protocol 11	216
(i) Preliminary procedures	216
(ii) Complaints procedure	217
(iii) Post-admissibility procedures	218
6. Inter-State applications	219
7. Individual complaints	221
(i) <i>Ratione personae</i>	221
(ii) Complaints against whom?	221
(iii) Requirement of victim	222
(iv) Competence <i>ratione materiae</i>	223
(v) Competence <i>ratione loci</i>	223
(vi) Exhaustion of domestic remedies	225
(vii) Six months rule	225
(viii) Other restrictions	226
8. Remedies before the Court	227
9. Significant principles emergent from the ECHR	228
(i) Reservations: Article 57	228
(ii) Derogation in time of emergency: Article 15	229
(iii) Margin of appreciation	230
10. Conclusions	230
8 Europe and human rights (II)	232
1. Introduction	232
2. European Social Charter 1961 (revised 1996)	233
(i) Rights contained in the revised Charter	234
(ii) Implementation mechanism	237
(a) Collective complaints procedure	240

3. The European Union	243
(i) Institutional structures and protection of human rights	247
(ii) European Court of Justice and human rights	248
(iii) Human rights and the EU treaties	251
(iv) The Charter of Fundamental Rights	256
(v) The Role of the Fundamental Rights Agency	261
(vi) Critical comments	262
4. The OSCE	263
(i) Human rights involvement through visits	268
(ii) High Commissioner for National Minorities	268
(a) The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)	269
5. Conclusions	269
 9 The inter-American system for the protection of human rights	 271
1. Introduction	271
2. The OAS Charter system and the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man	273
3. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights	275
(i) Background: one commission for the two systems	275
(ii) Structure and organisation of the Commission	276
(iii) Complaints procedure	278
4. The American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR)	278
5. Analysis of substantive rights	280
(i) Right to life, liberty, the prohibition of enforced disappearances and torture	280
(ii) Equality and non-discrimination	282
(iii) Privacy, religion, thought, expression, assembly and association	283
(iv) Specialist rights	284
(v) Economic, social and cultural rights	286
6. Procedures under the American Convention on Human Rights	286
(i) State reporting	286
(ii) Individual complaints procedure	287
(iii) Inter-State application	288
(iv) Admissibility requirements	288
(v) Procedure	291
7. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights	292
8. Forms of jurisdiction	293
(i) Contentious jurisdiction	293
(ii) Advisory jurisdiction	298
9. Fact-finding missions of the Inter-American Commission	301
10. Conclusions	302
 10 The African system for the protection of human rights	 305
1. Introduction	305
(i) The African Union (AU)	306
(ii) The African Union and human rights law	308

2. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and its distinctive features	309
(i) Incorporation of three generation of rights	310
(ii) Duties of the individual	311
(iii) 'Claw-back' clauses	311
3. Analysing the substantive rights in the Charter	312
(i) Non-discrimination and equality	314
(ii) Right to life and prohibitions of torture and slavery	315
(iii) Freedom of religion, expression, association and movement	318
(iv) Property rights in the Charter	319
(v) Economic, social and cultural rights	320
(vi) The family as the natural unity and basis of society, rights of women and children	321
4. The meaning of peoples' rights in African human rights law	325
5. The African Commission	328
6. The African Court of Justice and Human Rights	331
7. Protecting human and peoples' rights	335
(i) State reporting procedure	335
(ii) Inter-State procedure	336
(iii) Other communications	338
(iv) Article 58 communications	343
(v) Procedure	344
(a) Human rights initiatives focusing on peace-building and security	345
(b) Darfur, Sudan (AMIS)	347
(c) Somalia	348
(d) Elsewhere	349
8. Conclusions	349
 11 Additional human rights mechanisms	 352
1. Introduction	352
2. Islam and human rights law	353
(i) The sources and content of the <i>Sharia</i>	354
(ii) Understanding the scope of the <i>Sharia</i>	355
(iii) Islamic international human rights law	357
(iv) Controversy over women's rights and rights of religious minorities	358
(v) Islamic institutions and approaches towards human rights law	362
(vi) The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC)	363
(a) Institutions of the OIC	365
(b) The Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam	367
(c) OIC Covenant on the Rights of the Child in Islam (2004)	370
(d) Convention of the OIC on Combating International Terrorism (1999)	373
(e) The Role of the OIC and its Member States in the Aftermath of 11 September 2001	375
3. League of Arab States	377
(i) Arab Charter of Human Rights	378

4. South-Asia and Human Rights Law	384
(i) The South-Asian mosaic and the enormity of problems	384
(ii) International and regional institutions and difficulties in protecting and promoting human rights: case studies of East Pakistan and Kashmir	386
(a) East Pakistan	386
(b) The Kashmir Conflict	388
(iii) Regional Mechanisms for the protection of human rights within South Asia: South Asian Association of Regional Co-operation (SAARC)	390
(iv) Institutions of SAARC	391
5. Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	393
6. Conclusions	396
Part IV	
Group rights	399
12 Equality and non-discrimination	401
1. Introduction	401
2. Equality and non-discrimination within international law	402
3. Religious discrimination and international law	403
4. Inconsistencies within international standards and difficulties in implementation	404
5. Right to racial equality and non-discrimination in international law	413
(i) The International Covenants	413
(ii) International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (The Race Convention)	416
(a) Complications in the definition of 'discrimination' and the scope of the Convention	416
(b) Issues of implementation	421
(iii) The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)	423
(a) Procedure	424
(b) Inter-State complaints procedure	426
(c) Individual or group communication	427
6. Thematic discussions	430
7. Conclusions	431
13 The rights of minorities	433
1. Introduction	433
2. Definition of minorities	434
3. Analysing the substantive rights of minorities	438
(i) The right to life and physical existence	438
(ii) The right to religious, cultural and linguistic autonomy	452
4. Modern initiatives in international law	457
5. Regional protection of minority rights: an overview	462
6. Conclusions	470

14 The rights of ‘peoples’ and ‘indigenous peoples’	472
1. Introduction	472
2. Peoples’ right to self-determination	473
(i) Form and content of the right to self-determination	478
3. Indigenous peoples in international law: the issue of definition	480
4. Rights of indigenous peoples	483
5. Indigenous peoples and the UN system	487
(i) The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	488
(ii) Issues arising from the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)	495
(a) Continuing the definitional debate	495
(b) Land rights	498
(c) Right of self-determination	501
(d) Cultural rights	502
(e) The Right to health	504
6. Other initiatives	507
7. Conclusions	509
 15 The rights of women	 511
1. Introduction	511
2. Rights of women and the human rights regime	513
(i) Women and violence during armed conflict	514
3. Combating discrimination against women and the international human rights movement	516
4. The role of the United Nations	518
5. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	520
(i) Issues of discrimination and of <i>de facto</i> equality	521
(ii) Modifying social and cultural patterns to eliminate practices based on ideas of inferiority	523
(iii) Representation in public life and the issue of nationality	526
(iv) Educational, employment and health rights	528
(v) Social and economic rights	531
(vi) Marriage and family relations	534
6. Reservations and the attempts to find consensus on the provisions of the Convention	535
7. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	537
(i) The Optional Protocol	541
(ii) General recommendations	547
(iii) Procedure	548
(iv) Recent initiatives	550
8. Violence against women	551
9. Conclusions	553

16 The rights of the child	555
1. Introduction	555
2. International instruments on the rights of the child	556
3. The Convention on the Rights of the Child	558
4. Analysing the substantive provisions	559
(i) Definitional issues and the obligations of States parties to non-discrimination	559
(ii) Best interest of the child	564
(iii) Developmental rights of the child	566
(iv) Respect for the views of the child	569
(v) Freedom of expression, thought, conscience and religion and association and assembly	571
(vi) Measures to combat violence, abuse, exploitation and maltreatment of children	572
(vii) Children in wars and conflicts	579
(viii) Concerns of disability and health	582
(ix) Educational rights	584
(x) Criminal justice rights	586
5. Implementation of the Convention	586
(i) Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	589
6. Innovative features and other initiatives	593
(i) Regional initiatives to protect the rights of children	596
7. Conclusions	598
17 Rights of the persons with disabilities	600
1. Introduction	600
2. The United Nations and the rights of the disabled peoples	604
(i) The UN effort towards a focused approach to disability	608
(ii) The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD): fundamental principles	611
(iii) Equality and non-discrimination	614
(iv) Vulnerable communities within disabled persons	618
(v) Independence, accessibility and participation in all aspects of life	619
(vi) Right to life, security and the prohibition from inhuman and degrading treatment	620
(vii) The right to education, health and employment	622
(viii) Right to participation in political, public and cultural life, recreation and sport	624
(ix) Implementation of the Convention	625
(x) The Optional Protocol to CRDP	628
(xi) Developments	630
(xii) National policies in respect of the Convention	631
3. Regional human rights law and disability	632
(i) The European system	632
(ii) Organization of American States	635

(iii) The African Union	637
(iv) Other systems of regional protection	638
4. Conclusions	639
18 Rights of refugees and internally displaced persons	641
1. Introduction	641
2. Establishing a nexus between refugeeism and mass displacement within human rights law	642
3. International law and the protection of refugees	643
(i) The Refugee Convention 1951	644
(ii) The principle of non-refoulement under the 1951 Convention	644
(iii) Obligations upon States parties under the Refugee Convention	646
(iv) Defining 'refugees' in international law	647
(a) Outside the country of origin	648
(b) Inability or unwillingness to seek or to take advantage of the protection of country of origin	648
(c) Reasons for persecution	649
(d) Well-founded fear of persecution	654
(v) Loss of refugee status	656
4. Regional approaches to refugees	661
(i) Europe	661
(ii) Africa	664
(iii) The Americas	666
(iv) Non-refoulement	668
5. International law and internally displaced persons (IDPs)	673
6. Conclusions	679
19 Rights of migrant workers and their families	680
1. Introduction	680
2. Migrant workers and human rights movement	681
3. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families	684
(i) Defining migrant workers and members of their families	684
(ii) Dichotomy between documented/regular migrant workers and undocumented/irregular migrant workers	690
(iii) Criticism and limitations of the substantive provisions of the Convention	694
(iv) Women as migrant workers	697
(v) Reluctance on the part of States to ratify or to follow principles of the Convention	698
(vi) Implementation of the Convention	698
(a) Implementation mechanisms	699
4. The role of the International Labour Organization in protecting the rights of migrant workers and members of their families	702
5. Regional standards	704
(i) The Council of Europe	704
(ii) The European Union	706

(iii) The Organization of American States (OAS)	708
(iv) The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	709
6. Conclusions	710

Part V

Issues arising in international human rights law	713
20 International criminal law and international human rights law	715
1. Introduction	715
2. Definition and characteristics of international criminal law	716
3. The developmental process of ICL	717
(i) Cold War politics and the stalemate in efforts to establish a permanent International Criminal Court	721
(ii) The <i>ad hoc</i> International Criminal Tribunals	722
4. The International Criminal Court (ICC)	725
(i) The role, functions and jurisdictional issues of the ICC	727
(ii) ICC's jurisdiction	729
(iii) The rights of the accused individual under investigation and trial	734
5. Categories of international crimes	736
(i) War crimes	736
(ii) Crimes against humanity	740
(iii) Genocide	745
(iv) Aggression	753
6. Substantive principle of ICL: individual criminal responsibility, immunities and 'superior orders'	755
7. Recent developments at the International Criminal Court	758
8. Mixed International Criminal Tribunals	760
9. Conclusions	762
21 International human rights law and international humanitarian law	764
1. Introduction	765
2. Historic Antecedents	766
(i) Religious ordinances on the laws of war	766
(ii) Early efforts to develop humanitarian laws	768
3. The content of international humanitarian law	770
(i) Application of international humanitarian law	772
(ii) Entitlement to take part in the conflict	775
(iii) Human rights and the amelioration of the condition of the sick and wounded at the field or at sea (GC1 and GC2)	777
(iv) Rights of prisoners of war (POWs)	778
(v) Protection of the civilian persons in times of war/armed conflict	782
4. Human Rights and Humanitarian Values in the Conduct of Warfare	786
(i) Distinguishing civilian from military targets and the strict focus on achieving military objectives	786
(ii) Prohibition on causing unnecessary suffering	788

(iii) The principle of proportionality and protection of civilians	791
(iv) IHL, the right of self-determination and national liberation movements	793
(v) IHL, non-international armed conflicts and the protection offered under Protocol II	794
(vi) Provisions for special protection	797
(a) Women	798
(b) Children	799
(c) The environment	802
5. Enforcing international humanitarian law	804
6. Conclusions	806
 22 Torture as a crime in international law and the rights of torture victims	 808
1. Introduction	808
2. The Convention Against Torture (Torture Convention)	811
(i) Provisions contained in the Convention	812
(ii) Defining the concept of 'torture', 'cruel', 'inhuman' or 'degrading treatment' or 'punishment'	813
(iii) Non-expulsions and the Torture Convention	818
(iv) Torture and the issues of sovereign immunity and universal jurisdiction	821
3. The Committee Against Torture (CAT)	830
4. Implementation mechanisms	831
(i) Reporting procedures	831
(ii) Procedure for the consideration of reports	833
(iii) Inter-State procedure	835
(iv) Individual complaints procedure	836
(v) Investigation on its own initiative (Article 20)	841
5. The UN Special Rapporteur, the question of torture and other initiatives taken by the UN	844
(i) The UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	844
(ii) The United Nations Voluntary Fund	847
(iii) Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishments	847
6. Regional initiatives	850
(i) The European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment	850
(ii) Other regional initiatives	851
7. Conclusions	853
 23 International human rights law and enforced disappearances	 855
1. Introduction	855
2. Backdrop to the International Convention	857
(i) The Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances (1980) (WGEID)	857

3. International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	861
(i) Analysing the provisions of the Convention	863
(ii) Jurisdiction, investigation, extradition, assistance and co-operation between States parties	865
(iii) Victims of enforced disappearance and enforced disappearances of children	869
(iv) Implementation of the Convention	871
(a) State reporting	872
(b) Request for urgent action	872
(c) Individual complaints procedure	873
(d) Inter-State complaints mechanism	874
(e) Initiating visits	874
(f) Action upon receiving information which appears to contain well-founded indications that enforced disappearance is being practised on a widespread or systematic scale	875
4. Regional instruments on forced disappearances	876
5. Conclusions	878
24 Terrorism as a crime in international law	879
1. Introduction	879
2. The definitional issues	881
(i) Recent developments on definitional issues	884
(ii) Review of comparative regional perspectives on defining and conceptualising terrorism	887
3. Terrorism and international law – historical developments	891
(i) International efforts to formulate legal principles prohibiting all forms of terrorism	892
(a) Inter-War years 1919–39	892
(b) Post-1945 developments	893
(c) Ending of the Cold War and shift in policies	894
(d) Dealing with specific terrorist activities	896
4. Acts of terrorism and human rights violations	898
5. International legal developments since 11 September 2001	906
(i) The United Nations, international community and the aftermath of 9/11: international human rights versus international terrorism	907
(ii) The ‘War on Terror’ and the repercussions for international human rights law	911
6. Conclusions	918
<i>Appendix: Studying and research in the international law of human rights</i>	921
<i>Index</i>	923